

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20

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P R 180500Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 389

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 0721

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINTS ID

SUBJECT: NEW MINISERS OF EDUCATION AND JUSTICE ANNOUNCED

REF: A) STATE 003420; B) JAKARTA A-44 OF FEB 26, 1973

1. AT JANUARY 17 LIMITED CABINET MEETING, MINISTER OF INFORMATION MASHURI ANNOUNCED CABINET CHANGES AS FOLLOWS:

A. AMBASSADOR TO THE US LT GEN DR SJARIF THAJEB TO REPLACE DECEASED PROF SUMANTRI BRODJONEGORO AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

B. LAW PROFESSOR (AND RECTOR OF PAJAJARAN UNIVERSITY) PROF DR MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA TO REPLACE PROF UMAR SENO ADJIE AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

2. MASHURI ANNOUNCED THAT SENO ADJIE WOULD BECOME CHAIRMAN OF SUPREME COURT, REPLACING RETIRING PROF. SUBEKTI. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF TWELVE NEW SUPREME COURT JUDGES BRINGING TOTAL NUMBER ON COURT TO SEVENTEEN.

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3. COMMENT: CABINET CHANGES WERE EXPECTED AND HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH JAKARTA DISTURBANCES. APPOINTMENT OF MOCHTAR (PROMINENT LEGAL SCHOLAR AND LAW-OF-SEA EXPERT WHO HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH GOVERNMENT IN MANY FIELDS) HAS BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME. APPOINTMENT OF THAJEB, WHO HELPED MINIMIZE PKI INFLUENCE DURING HIS 1962-64 UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA RECTORSHIP, MAY REFLECT RENEWED GOI DESIRE TO KEEP FIRM YET RESPECTED FIGURE IN CHARGE OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AT A TIME WHEN STUDENT UNREST IS AGAIN A MAJOR POLITICAL FACTOR. THAJEB ALSO SERVED AS MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND BASIC SCIENCE 1964-66.

4. AS FOR SUPREME COURT, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SAY THAT NEW APPOINTMENTS INDICATE EFFORT TO REJUVENATE THIS INSTITUTION, WHICH IN RECENT MONTHS HAS OPERATED WITH ONLY FIVE JUDGES AND BECAUSE OF OVERALL WEAKNESS OF INDONESIAN LEGAL INSTITUTIONS HAS LIMITED POWER.

5. FOR FURTHER BIO DETAILS SEE REF B (MOCHTAR) AND SEF BIO REPORTS ON MOCHTAR AND THAJEB.  
GALBRAITH

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## Message Attributes

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